

Application Number: 09/783,802

Docket Number: 10004310-1

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1-18 remain pending in the present patent application. Applicant requests reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

In item 1 of the Office Action, claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0116620 A1 filed by Gimbert (hereafter "Gimbert"). A prima facie case of obviousness is established only when the prior art teaches or suggests all of the elements of the claims. MPEP §2143.03, In re Rijckaert, 9 F.3d 1531, 28 U.S.P.Q2d 1955, 1956 (Fed. Cir. 1993). For the reasons that follow, Applicant once again asserts that Gimbert fails to show or suggest each of the elements of claims 1-18 as originally filed. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 1-18 be withdrawn.

To begin, claim 1 provides as follows:

1. A method in for transferring a digital document, comprising the steps of:
 - mapping from a number of destination addresses to a respective number of security identifiers via a directory server;
 - adding a number of access privileges to the digital document in a computer system via a network using the security identifiers; and
 - posting the digital document on a server accessible via the network.

Applicant notes that claim 6, 11, and 15 also include elements similar in scope with that of claim 1 above. With respect to claims 1, 6, 11, and 15, the Office Actions states:

"Gimbert teaches a method in for transferring a digital document, comprising the steps of:

- a. mapping from a number of destination addresses to a respective number of security identifiers via a director server (Gimbert: see for example, paragraph [0016] line 10-20): Gimbert discloses (a) the identity of the user must exist in the system's directory before the security system allows the access and the security system on the web server correlates the identity of the user entered with a list in the system's directory, and (b) an electronic mail notification to users associated with the document will be triggered in various events such as modification of documents (Gimbert: see for example, Paragraph [0016]). Therefore, the security identifiers must map to destination addresses in order to trigger the electronic mail notification to users." (Office Action, page 3).

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Applicant respectfully disagrees. Gimbert fails to show or suggest mapping a number of destination addresses to a respective number of security identifiers in a directory server of a network. Also, the specific statement in the Office Action that "the security identifiers must map to destination addresses in order to trigger the electronic mail notification to users" is erroneous and misinterprets the fair teachings of Gimbert.

Gimbert teaches a system that allows users to access, create, and modify documents used in regulatory proceedings for a government entity. In order for any user to access the system, they must provide a username and a password. Before a user may actually log into the system as such, their name and password have to be entered into the system by an administrator to provide access. Once a user logs onto the system, they may create a document that is then viewed by a number of individuals as described in paragraph [0022] of Gimbert which states:

In one sequence of steps according to FIG. 2, an employee of the entity enters the system at step 38 and after viewing their personal task list at step 40 proceeds to input a document at step 44 as may be required by law, such as a document for certification of a product or service, in fulfillment of an action item on their task list shown at step 40. To input a document, the employee of the entity goes to the systems' page within the server that is used to create a document 44. Then entity employee uses the fields in the web form to create the document and/or may attach computer files that are the document or related to the document itself. After the document is created or attached, the entity employee selects the appropriate supervisor that the completed document will be sent to for review and revision at step 46 before the document is submitted to the entity-agency liaison at step 48. The selected supervisor receives the request to review the newly created document in one of two ways, by automatically adding revision of document to the supervisor's personal task list on the web server and/or by an automatic electronic mail message. Both the personal task list and the email message contain hypertext link to the document. The supervisor then enters the system via steps 38 and 40, then proceeds to the review step 46. The document is then sent to the entity-agency liaison at step 48. The entity-agency liaison also enters the system via steps 38 and 40, then proceeds to the review step 48. After the entity-agency liaison receives the document, the entity-agency liaison may submit the document to the agency which generates an automatic email notification to the agency at step 50. Throughout the process, any time a document, question, response, etc., is sent from one individual or role to another, whether within the entity, within the agency, or across the entity-agency border, the recipient's task list is updated and an automatic email notification sent. (Emphasis Added)

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Thus, there are no "security identifiers that are used to map to destination addresses in order to trigger the electronic mail notification to users" as stated in the Office Action. Rather, individual users specify to whom a document is to be sent and the automated email message is sent out. The potential recipients are necessarily stored in the system so that a user can specify that such recipient is to receive notification.

This is in contrast to the invention as set forth in claim 1. Specifically, a number of destination addresses are mapped to a corresponding number of security identifiers. Access privileges are associated with a document using the security identifiers and the document is posted for access. Gimbert teaches that users must log into a system to gain access to the system in general. Gimbert does not teach the use of security identifiers to restrict access to specific documents. Rather, Gimbert teaches that individuals are provided access as they are identified by users who act upon a document as described above. In this respect, Gimbert teaches away from mapping destination addresses to security identifiers.

Nonetheless, in response to Applicant's arguments, the Office Action states:

"Applicant remarks 'Gimbert fails to show or suggest mapping from a number of destination addresses to a respective number of security identifiers via a directory server'. Examiner notes Gimbert discloses (a) the identity of the user must exist in the system's directory before the security system allows the access and the security system on the web server correlates the identity of the user entered with a list in the system's directory, and (b) the web server utilize an automatic email program to notify designated users concerning the approval of a document, rejection of a document, modification of a document that could trigger an email notification to users associated with the document (Gimbert: see for example, Paragraph [0016] Line 1-11). Therefore, Examiner notes the email address must include the destination addresses of all of the users associated with (i.e. concerning) the particular document posted in the web server (e.g. upon the approval or rejection or modification of a particular document (e.g. 'DoD Aircraft Design Document'), all of the engineers and managers associated with this particular document in a particular project team will receive the email notification (interpreted as the destination address with respect to the source address of digital document sender)." (Office Action, page 2).

While the identity of a user does exist in the system's directory, the identity of users is tracked with usernames and passwords that relate to email addresses. Also, even though an automatic email program is employed to notify users of the need for action with respect to a document, individual users specify to whom the

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notification is to be made and there is no security identifier accessed to determine access privileges to a document as claimed. Rather, security is provided by requiring all users to log in with a username and password when they access the system and then act upon the document for which the email notification was delivered.

In addition, the statement that the "Examiner notes the email address must include the destination addresses of all of the users associated with (i.e. concerning) the particular document posted in the web server (e.g. upon the approval or rejection or modification of a particular document" is confusing. How does an "email address" include "destination addresses"? As stated above and set forth in paragraph [0022], Gimbert teaches that users who create a document or review a document specify the next user or users to whom notice is to be sent.

Finally, the Office Action cites an example of:

"upon the approval or rejection or modification of a particular document (e.g. "DoD Aircraft Design Document"), all of the engineers and managers associated with this particular document in a particular project team will receive the email notification (interpreted as the destination address with respect to the source address of digital document sender)"

as proof that a number of users associated with a document receive email notification. To the extent that Gimbert teaches that users receive email notification, such individuals are specified by other users who act upon a document as described in paragraph [0022] set forth above. While notifying "all of the engineers and managers associated with a particular document in a particular project team" with an email notification appears impressive, a detailed review of Gimbert reveals that this example is not mentioned in the text. Specifically, there is no discussion of a team of individuals who are notified as such. Also, there is no mention of a "DOD Aircraft Design Document" as an example by Gimbert. About the closest Gimbert comes to this statement is at the end of paragraph [0012] which states:

"One non-limiting example of an entity-agency pair would be an aircraft engine manufacturer seeking airworthiness certification from the FAA for a new engine model."

In any event, even if a team of individuals were mentioned as being associated with a document, such individuals would have to have been identified by a creator of the document or other person who acted upon the document at some point. There is no

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function in which a number of destination addresses are mapped to a respective number of security identifiers via a directory server, where the security identifiers are employed to provide access privileges to a document as claimed. Rather, a simple login with a username and password is what limits user access to the system. The user then may view the document for which they received notification.

Given that the example above is not mentioned in the text of Gimbert, then it must necessarily be based on facts within the personal knowledge of the Examiner. When a rejection in an application is based on facts within the personal knowledge of an Examiner, it should be specific as possible. When called for by the Applicant, the Examiner must support the assertion with an affidavit which is subject to contradiction or explanation by the affidavits of the Applicant or other persons. 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests a formal affidavit from the Examiner testifying to facts expounded upon in the Office Action to the extent that they are not fairly disclosed by Gimbert.

Accordingly, Applicant once again asserts that the rejection of claims 1, 6, 11, and 15 is improper. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 1, 6, 11, and 15 be withdrawn. In addition, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-14, and 16-18 be withdrawn as depending from claims 1, 6, 11, or 15, respectively.

In addition, claim 3 as originally filed states as follows:

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of mapping from the number of destination addresses to the respective number of security identifiers via the directory server further comprises the step of transmitting each of the destination addresses to the directory server along with a request for the security identifier associated therewith.

Applicant notes that claims 8, 13, and 17 incorporate subject matter similar in scope with that of claim 3 above. With respect to claims 3, 8, 13, and 17, the Office Action states:

"Gimbert as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 1, 6, 11, and 15 respectively). Gimbert as modified further teaches mapping from the number of destination addresses to the respective number of security identifiers via the directory server further comprises the step of transmitting each of the destination addresses to the directory server along with the request for the security identifier associated therewith (Gimbert: see for example, paragraph [0016] line 14-20)." (Office Action, page 5).

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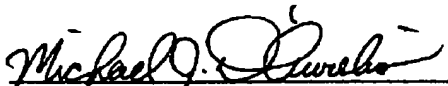
Once again Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, if Gimbert does not teach mapping destination addresses to security identifiers as is described above, then Applicant asserts that Gimbert necessarily fails to show or suggest transmitting each of the destination addresses to the directory server along with a request for the security identifier associated therewith.

Thus, Applicant once again asserts that Gimbert fails to show or suggest the subject matter of claims 3, 8, 13, and 17. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 3, 8, 13, and 17 be withdrawn for this additional reason.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicant's response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,


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